ROBERT KIRKMAN LORENZO DE FELICI PATRICIO DELPECHE
VOID RIVALS
image
#08

ROBERT KIRKMAN
/WRITER/

LORENZO DE FELICI
/ARTIST/

PATRICIO DELPECHE
/COLORIST/

RUS WOOTON
/LETTERER/

LORENZO DE FELICI
FRAN GALÁN
ANDRÉ LIMA ARAÚJO & CHRIS O'HALLORAN
QISTINA KHALIDAH
ROD REIS
/COVERS/

/VOID RIVALS CREATED BY/
ROBERT KIRKMAN & LORENZO DE FELICI

BEN ABERNATHY
/EDITOR/

ANDRES JUAREZ
/LOGO & PUBLICATION DESIGN/

JILLIAN CRAB
/PRODUCTION/

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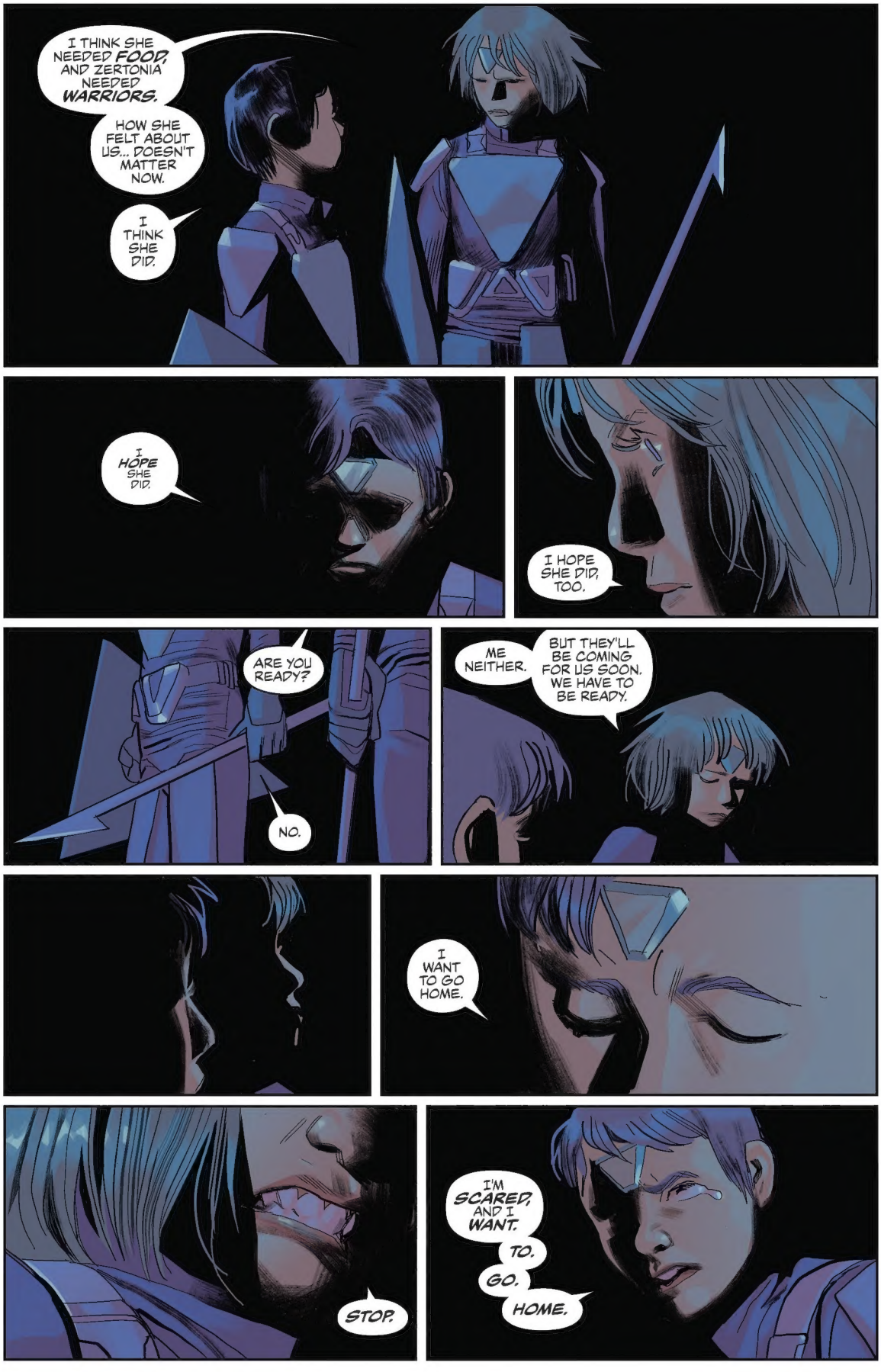
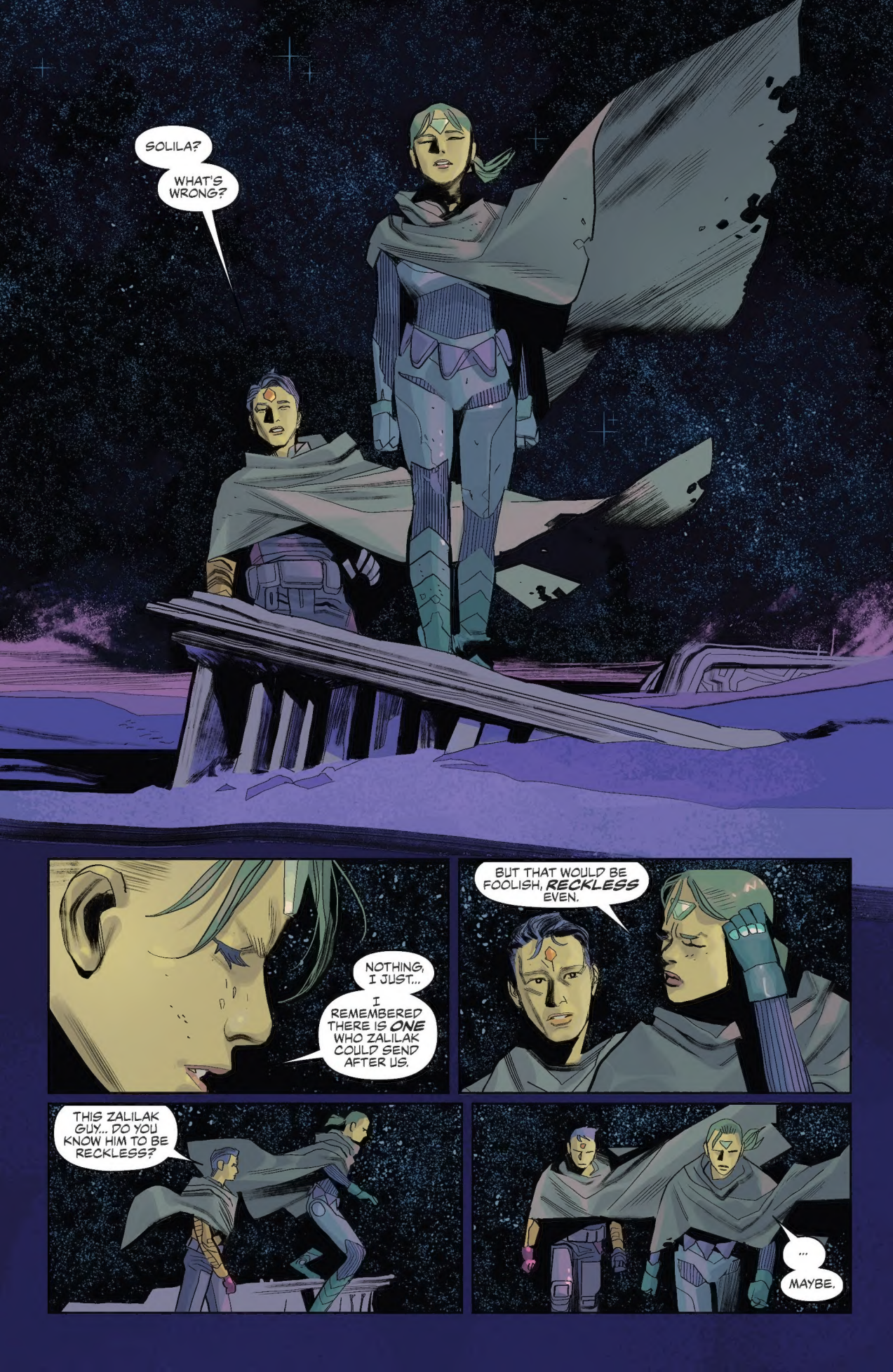
I HEAR THE AGORRIANS HAVE SIX EYES. THEIR HELMETS ONLY HAVE TWO EYE HOLES TO HIDE HOW MONSTROUS THEY REALLY ARE.
THEIR SKIN IS SHARP LIKE LITTLE DAGGERS, AND THEY--
SOLILA! STOP! YOU'RE SCARING ME.
I'M SORRY. I'M JUST TRYING TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THINGS.
DO YOU NEED HELP?
I GOT IT. I'M A BIG BOY. I CAN DO IT MYSELF.
POLADA, PLEASE. YOUR ARMOR IS GOING TO FALL OFF. LET ME TIGHTEN IT.
NO. I--
OKAY. FINE. NOT TOO--
IT HAS TO BE TIGHT.
SOLILA?
YEAH?
DO YOU THINK MOM EVER LOVED US?


I THINK SHE NEEDED FOOD, AND ZERTONIA NEEDED WARRIORS.
HOW SHE FELT ABOUT US... DOESN'T MATTER NOW.
I THINK SHE DID.
I HOPE SHE DID.
I HOPE SHE DID, TOO.
ARE YOU READY?
NO.
ME NEITHER.
BUT THEY'LL BE COMING FOR US SOON. WE HAVE TO BE READY.
I WANT TO GO HOME.
STOP.
I'M SCARED, AND I WANT. TO. GO. HOME.

WRAMM
STOP. NOW.
YOU CAN'T SHOW WEAKNESS.
WROK
I'M NOT WEAK!
I'M NOT WEAK!
KLAKK
GOOD.
SHOW ME.
FWISH
WHUMP
KLAK
HA!
THESE TWO ARE READY. THEY ALREADY STARTED IN ON EACH OTHER!


SOLILA?
WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING, I JUST...
I REMEMBERED THERE IS ONE WHO ZALILAK COULD SEND AFTER US.
BUT THAT WOULD BE FOOLISH, RECKLESS EVEN.
THIS ZALILAK GUY... DO YOU KNOW HIM TO BE RECKLESS?
...
MAYBE.

I RECOMMEND STOPPING TO REST A MOMENT. YOU'VE BEEN WALKING NEARLY THE ENTIRE DAY AND HAVEN'T STOPPED TO EAT.
I KNOW IT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN, HANDROID, BUT WE NEED TO GET TO OUR DESTINATION BEFORE THE FOOD RUNS OUT.
IT IS VERY MUCH MY CONCERN. YOUR CONTINUED WELL-BEING IS MY NUMBER ONE OBJECTIVE.
I'M WITH THE GLOVE.
I'LL SPLIT A NUTRITION STICK WITH YOU.
FINE.

SO WHAT'S AT THIS MIDWAY POINT, EXACTLY?
HONESTLY, I DON'T WANT TO SAY. MY RECOLLECTION IS... HAZY.
AN... OASIS? SUPPLIES... POSSIBLY A RIDE TO THE AGORRIAN BORDER. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE.
BY ZERTA, I'M GOING TO DIE HERE.
YOU HEAR THAT?
ZZEEEEEEEEEEE
WHAT IS THAT?
OH, NO-- RUN!

EEEEEEEEEE

WHAT IS--?!

THUNK

SHR AK KRA KA

NO.
PLEASE NO.
FOR THE GOOD OF THE SACRED RING--- YOU BOTH MUST DIE!
I ALREADY HATE THIS GUY!
THIS IS PROXIMUS, THE DEADLIEST ZERTONIAN WARRIOR.
WE... WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS.

LISTEN TO YOU--SUCH A QUITTER!
SCANS INDICATE HIS ARMOR IS TOO DENSE FOR YOUR BLASTER TO HAVE AN EFFECT.
JEEZ! YOU, TOO?
VZAP VZAP
PAK-PAK-PAK
POK
PAK-PAK
THOOM
VROK
I WARNED YOU!
NOT HELPING!
RUN! THAT'S THE ONLY WAY YOU SURVIVE THIS.
IF I MANAGE TO GET AWAY FROM HIM--I'LL FIND YOU!
THEN WHAT KIND OF HERO WOULD I BE?

AN ALIVE ONE.
SKRAKK
WHAT ARE YOU--?!
I'M A HERO!
VZAP VZAP
WRAM
YOU. DO I... RECOGNIZE YOU?
IF ONLY YOU COULD...
KROOM
MATTERS NOT.
YOU'RE A THREAT TO ALL WHO LIVE.
VM

VOOM
VAPP
VAPP
WRAAAM
IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I HUNTED FOR SPORT. OH, HOW I'VE MISSED THIS.
HANDROID-- NOW!
VZAK VZAK VZAK

THUKK
IT WORKED!
KROOM
NO.
=IIRK!=

THAP
YOU--
--DAMAGED ME.
I-- HAD TO--
AT LEAST--
--DO THAT MUCH.
KRIK
YOU ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING.
FIVE. FOUR. THREE.
KRAKK

BAM
OOSH

WHOOM!
DARAK?
YOUR RESPIRATION IS INCREASING. ARE YOU AWAKE?

YES.
WAS KIND OF HOPING TO JUST LIE HERE IN PAIN FOR A MOMENT...
CAN YOU SCAN FOR SOLILA? WITH ANY LUCK, SHE'S NEARBY...
AND THE BIG, SCARY GUY ISN'T.
MOTION SCANS ARE CLEAR. PROXIMUS IS NOT NEAR OR APPROACHING.
NEITHER IS SOLILA.
ANY LUCK WITH--
WAIT. AHEAD, FOUR HUNDRED PACES. TRACES OF WHAT COULD BE SOLILA'S ARMOR.
=GASP!=

=UNNGH.=
SOLILA!

TALK TO THE HANDROID

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO VOIDRIVALS@SKYBOUND.COM

Holy smokes what an issue! How about that last page?! Phew…here we are again with the next thrilling installment of TALK TO THE HANDROID and I'd like to take a quick moment to welcome…myself! Hi, my name is Ben Abernathy and I'm thrilled to be joining this amazing series as the new editor. Working on VOID RIVALS—and the larger Energon Universe—is quite literally a dream come true! We have some amazing things to come this year so prepare to have your minds BLOWN!

Robert Kirkman here in italics! Let's all give a huge Skybound welcome to Ben Abernathy, editor extraordinaire! He's been a great addition to the team thus far and I have high hopes for how he's going to supercharge the Energon Universe moving forward. Get excited!

Speaking of getting excited, let's answer some mail!

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Is there any chance of Jem and the Holograms joining the Energon Universe? I always felt Jem was the underappreciated member of the Hasbro family and I've always wanted to see her get to team up with G.I. Joe.

Hmm…interesting idea. I feel like she'd make a pretty sick Dreadnok!

Love the whole world you're building, Void Rivals is my new favorite comic!

-Tony

Thanks, Tony! I agree, the world building in this series is A+ and wait until you see what Robert, Lorenzo, Patricio and Rus have in store in the next few issues!

Yeah, I can't stress enough, what you've seen so far really is just the tip of the iceberg to come. There's so much cool stuff planned, I can't wait for you all to experience it!

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Dear Talk To The Handroid (TTTH!), So, I just finished reading VR issues 5 and 6 and...that made me want to go back and read again from issue 1. Having done that I thought "Wow, those first six issues are gonna make a great trade!" Then I wondered "Are there going to be any extras in the trade? Things I wouldn't get in the letter section? Maybe an RC Coda type dialogue with the artist? The artist's versions of favorite Transformers?" Anyway, if so, depending on the extra materials I might be enticed to buy a trade! It's a great story so far, though I still can't get over why Solila would betray Darak like that! At least they are somewhat reconciled now. I'm looking forward to the trade and issue #7.

Alan Bowman
Sagamihara City, Japan

Glad you enjoyed the killer opening arc and yes, Darak really has put himself out there in the trust department with Solila…and she hasn't made it easy haha! Right now, the collected edition doesn't have a ton of bells-and-whistles but we definitely have some killer ideas for future editions! But I would recommend getting it anyways as it'll really make your bookshelf classier.

• • • • • • • • • • • • • • •

Hey Robert and Sean! Huge fan, and loving Void Rivals. Can't wait for everything else to come!

Since you guys are working directly with Hasbro to incorporate their characters and develop new stories, is there any chance we may get some action figures based on the Energon Universe designs? Would love to get the Void Rivals characters, too.

Sincerely,
Jared Logan

Oh man, that's always the dream! I'll keep the fingers on Handroid crossed!

Wouldn't toys be awesome? Man… let's all be diligent with our wishes!

• • • • • • • • • • • •

~~Sean~~ **Ben** and Robert,

Hello! Void Rivals has been lots of fun so far! Been a Kirkman fan since around TWD 50, but even before that your MTU and Cap runs. I'm a huge fan of both TF and G.I. Joe, through all the various iterations. From previous cols it seems like the primary basis for the canon, if you will, of The Energon Universe, at least on the TF side, will be the Original Animated Series, while weaving in some fun stuff from the various shows that came after. This leaves me wondering where the Joes continuity will come from. And frankly, if The Autobots are my friends, The Joes are mi familia.

Keep your eyes peeled for more information to come on your mi familia!

Yeah, I think the animated series will always be the primary source of inspiration for all things Energon Universe, but when it comes to Joe there's a lot from the comics and file cards and various other iterations that can be pulled from. I know the esteemed Joshua Williamson is pulling inspiration from a number of sources on those series.

Clearly, since ARAH will continue the epic, fantastic work of Larry Hama, The Energon Universe won't continue his story. Will it primarily be based on the Animated Series or brand new? If it's based on the Animated Series, will it include any of the answers to the following questions that, may God strike me down, I've had since 1987 or so…

1. Dusty. Show says his name is Rudat, his card says Tadur. What's the truth?
2. Mainframe & Zarana sitting in a tree. K.I.S.S.I.N.G.?
3. Will Clutch and Breaker be around or are they in the alternate dimension where Steeler and Baroness are in love and working to overthrow Cobra?
4. Is Mara, Shipwreck's Wife, real?
5. Has the Viper viped all of the vindows?

Hey! Wait! Is this a Void Rival's letters column or not?! What gives here.

These are all great questions but what would be the fun of answering them here? As Ben said, stay tuned!!

Thanks for caring about this dumb stuff as much as I do, it means a lot to know there are other people out there who have devoted as much brain meat to this stuff as I have. Yo Joe! Yo Void Rivals! Roll Out!

David Bewsey
Broca Beach

We love your commitment and enthusiasm…and for the moment, I can't answer any of your questions (under penalty of court martial!) except #5-and the answer is yes. They're all viped!

I will add that I was just having a conversation about future Void Rivals plans and going over the different Transformers and G.I.Joe lore that we'd be playing off of and my friend, who is very well-versed in this stuff just kind of looked at me and said "huh?" because he didn't remember any of this stuff.

So I guess that's just to say, yes, David. We definitely care about this stuff as much as you do! So much so that I refuse to call it dumb!

• • • • • • • • • • • •

And that's it for this month…please keep the letters coming as I want to hear from ALL OF YOU! And wait until you see what happens next month…the shock and awe is coming!

—Ben Abernathy

Heh. Definitely even cooler stuff on the horizon. Just you wait, Energon Fans! Things are about to get CRAAAAAZY!!!

—Robert Kirkman

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THEY SAY IT'S THE MOST PEACEFUL WAY TO DIE.
THEY SAY YOU FEEL **WARM,** THAT THE BRAIN **RELAXES** AS IT'S DEPRIVED OF OXYGEN.
WHAT DO THEY KNOW?
THERE'S NO RETURNING TO THE WOMB.
NO GENTLE EMBRACE BY THE VOID.
JUST DROWNING.
SCREAMING FOR **AIR,** CLAWING FOR **LIFE** WITH EVERY FIBER OF YOUR MUSCLES.

AND THEN YOU'RE DEAD.

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